



PAARAgraphs

Celebrating 61 years as a *real* ham radio club—*Since 1937*

Newsletter for the **Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**



CALENDAR

- Feb 6, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park 7:30-9:30 PM
- Feb 11, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**
Red Cross Blvd. 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- Mar 6, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
- Mar 11, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**
- Apr 3, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
- Apr 8, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**



Program

February 6, 1998
7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Ken Kitlas,
"amateur rocketry
and ham radio"

PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:00 P.M., local time
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

A Message From the Veep

It is an honor to be your vice-president this year, and I plan to provide some interesting programs for our meetings. **Anne Barrett** spoke at our January meeting about ARES and RACES communications. **Ken Kitlas**, February's speaker, will talk about amateur rocketry and ham radio. Sometime this year I would like to have QRP and Homebrew show and tell nights, and I am always open to suggestions from other club members for program ideas. I would love to hear from you! 73

Dave Bailey (WS6W), Vice-President and Program Chairperson

(ed. note: As PAARA does not have a club president, Dave and the Board need help. Try to offer a little more this year to help the club run smoothly)



PAARA PONDERINGS de VIC BLACK, AB6SO

ARRL Pacific Division Director **Brad Wyatt K6WR** announced the Naval Postgraduate School ARC is having its 7th Winterfest on Feb. 21, 1998, in Monterey. Visit <http://www.mcktech.com/wf98.htm> Web site for details. It's a free public service event with the flea market paying for the event. Contact **Doug McKinney** at KC3RL@mcktech.com, or phone at (H) (408) 663-6117 in Prunedale, CA. This event was canceled last year for lack of support. It's well worth the effort to drive over to Monterey for the day as this is a friendly hamfest which draws people from areas that would not ordinarily go to Foothill or Livermore.

January QST reported the 1997 ARRL September VHF QSO Party Results. **Vic Black AB6SO** won First Place overall for Santa Clara Valley Section as well as First Place for 440 MHz and 1.2 GHz in the Single Operator Category. **Mike Leland KD6PIW** was Seventh Place overall for the section in the

(Continued on page 14)Ponderings

Miscellaneous Dates

Flea Market at Foothill

(schedule will be listed in the Spring)

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
contact: Vic Black, Jr. AB6SO, (650)366-0636

EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,
contact Sheldon Edelman 650-858-2176, Edelman@richochet.net

NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, each
Thursday 8:00PM, contact Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

Meets 1st Sunday each month, contact Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

Perham Foundation

contact Jerry Tucker WA6LNV 650-961-3266

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

Meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 224.36, 440.80 MHz
contact Mike Hastings KB6LCI, 408-243-6745 or 408-249-6909.

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.
Net is on 144.45 & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
contact Dick Collins K6ANN 650-593-8952

SCCARRA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,
28.385, 8:00 Thur. Meets 2nd Mon each month. Contact: Jack Ruckman AC6FU

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)
contact Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2
Meets 3rd Wed every month. Contact Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO
at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net

Disaster Services, PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross

Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM, HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR
Gateway, NASA satellite, Contact Alan Ball 650-688-0423.

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross

contact Scott Hensley KB6UJO, 408 249 7093, fsh@richochet.net

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 11AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz

American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, R.C.
contact Joe KB6OWG.

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911

Menlo Park, CA 94026

President.....(vacant)

Vice President.....Dave Bailey, WS6W.....(408) 730 5215

Secretary.....Andreas Junge KF6NEB.....(650) 233 0843

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Club Historian.....Steve Stuntz, K6FS.....(650) 322 4952

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Steve Stuntz, K6FS.....(650) 322 4952 '99

Vic Black, AB6SO,.....(650) 366 0636 Past Pres

(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

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Submit material for PAARagraphs by the 15th

PAARA Website <http://www.qsl.net/paara/index.html>



PROGRAM NOTES:

PAARA Program,
January 9, 1998

— Steve Stuntz, K6FS



VE

Ron, W6VG

VE applicants were early and eager. January 17, 1998 at the American Legion Hall in Redwood City was well attended by wanna-bees. Most passed their exams, including two extra class applicants, one of whom aced the exam. Very impressive indeed. On hand were regulars, Joe Horne Sr.

WB6OWG, Gene Irazarrry KK6LO, Bill Sooman WB6UVO, and Ron Panton W6VG. We were graced with the presence of head VE, Gordon Girton W6NW, Gordon was a big help, as we were lacking our stalwart Dan Curry. We also had a surprise visit by Al Montoya, WB6IMX, of the Sunnyvale Ve exam group. With sun spots increasing, maybe the VE groups will become busier. Any volunteers?

To a greater and greater extent public agencies are depending on the support of organized unpaid volunteers to provide services in times of need or emergency. In part this is due to diminishing public funds, in part to the increasing scale of natural and man-made disasters.

Our guest speaker, Anne Barrett, KC6PFS, Chief Radio Officer for Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Service, made abundantly clear the importance of amateur radio's acceptance by public agencies as an organized element of support at local, county and state levels.

Opening her discussion, she explained the two principal ham radio organizations, now accorded formal recognition as backup resources to government agencies:

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) - established by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) following WW2, as a body of licensed radio amateurs who have registered themselves and their equipment for service "when disaster strikes".

(Continued on page 15) Program Notes



WEB WANDERINGS

de Vic Black, AB6SO

The sunspot cycle has been getting a lot of attention recently. **Chuck Adams K5FO** sent a message from Dallas stating, "I almost daily go to <http://www.dxl.com/solar> to look at the beautifully done graph. We sure didn't have this during the previous solar cycles."

I checked it out and found a color graph depicting the Solar flux, Sunspot numbers and Planetary A index. The nicely done Web site is prepared and updated daily by **Jan Alvstad**. Whenever there are interesting solar or geomagnetic activities such as flares or geomagnetic storms, the page is updated more frequently. Along with the graph, there are write-ups on recent developments and a forecast. Charts list active solar regions with sunspot totals. The monthly solar data chart shows average solar flux, the sunspot numbers and the moving average for sunspots. There are several links to solar terms and data sources along with a tutorial to help you interpret the data. One link specifically explains WWV bulletins.

The Space Environment Center maintains a Web page whose stated purpose is "To provide radio operators with current data on the state of the ionosphere". The Table of Contents includes Today's Space Weather, Recent Space Environment Reports, Current Space Environment Alerts & Warnings and Auroral Activity Estimated from NOAA/TIROS Satellites. The Ionospheric Data Sets include magnetospheric, solar-terrestrial, auroral and ionospheric F2 information.

The Summary & Medium Range Forecasts section is particularly interesting to hams as it includes Support for HF Radio in North America as well as a Weekly Summary and 27-Day Forecast. (Why 27 days and not a 28 day moon cycle or 30 day calendar month? Because the sun rotates on its axis once every 27 days so a current solar flare will also affect propagation again in 27 days). This Web site is paid for by you, the taxpayer, so go for it. Try it out for yourself at <http://www.sel.noaa.gov/radio/radio.html>.

Brian Kassel W5VBO Phoenix AZ said, "I just ran across a very well done and informative web site, just for CW. Seems as if Wilko has just about every link pertaining to CW that there is." Try it at <http://www.dutch.nl/wilbwk>. This site is obviously a labor of love.

This is the home page of **Wilko J. Hollemans PA3BWK** of Hilversum, The Netherlands who says, "Welcome to my Ultimate CW Website" and reminds us "Remember... Without CW it's just CB".

In keeping with that theme, this is also the home page of the HSC (High Speed Club), VHSC (Very High Speed Club), SHSC (Super High Speed Club) and EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club). Membership in those clubs is by invitation after

completing at least 30 minutes of 2-way CW contacts, on the air, with current members. HSC requires 5 sponsors for operations at 25 WPM. VHSC requires 4 sponsors at a minimum of 40 WPM. SHSC needs 3 sponsors at 50 WPM while EHSC needs at least one sponsor at 60 WPM.

There is a multitude of downloadable freeware and shareware to help you learn CW as well as links to commercial CW related offerings. Interestingly enough, the web site also has links to **K6BP Bruce Perens'** "No Code International", a club devoted to abolishing the CW requirement for HF privileges. I like the links to clubs dealing with International Morse.

In a way, you can consider all of the Web site owners to be tutors or mentors as they are sharing their experiences with the rest of us. In the ham radio world, tutors are called "Elmers", maybe named at one time after a kindly old uncle.

Paul Schleck K3FU defines Elmers this way: "Traditionally, information has been passed on from ham to ham via word-of-mouth. Like many of the traditional crafts, a variation of the Master-Apprentice system has emerged, the Elmer-Novice relationship. Called 'Elmers' because they are usually older and wiser, having the benefit of many years in the hobby, including several failed projects, and an electric shock or two, they have traditionally been the mainstay of amateur radio, and the source of many new hams, particularly in working on emerging technologies."

Paul maintains a successful Web site called the Amateur Radio Elmers Resource Directory. The site has lists of on-line Elmers sorted by subject and geographic areas. Many of the Elmers are DX stations and would be particularly good for someone who needs radio help in a foreign language. Try them at <http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/elmers>. You can ask questions of the Elmers by e-mail, or if you are competent in a particular subject, you can register to become an Elmer yourself.

In an e-mail message, **Wayne Smith K8FF** said, "The Jan/Feb issue of THE HOME SHOP MACHINIST has a neat article on building your own straight key. Unfortunately it is written in installments. Still worth waiting for part 2 in the next issue." Wayne designed the extremely popular NorCal QRP Club keyer paddle kit. His paddle was featured in the Winter 1998 issue of QRPp along with all dimensions for duplicating the kit with nothing more than a hack saw, files and drills (preferably a drill press to keep everything square). If you enjoy working with brass and want a truly fine home brew project, you may want to check out both articles.

Another do-it-yourself idea came in from **Denny Morales KF6NJQ** in Goleta, CA whose message said, "I bought a box of 4.5" x 5.5" Avery postcard forms for my ink jet printer and I have been working up my own QSL layout." The forms are sticky back labels which are laser or ink jet printable. After you design your cards on the computer, you print them out on a sheet of label stock, peel off the labels and stick them on post cards or card stock. Voila! Home brew QSL cards.

With conditions improving weekly on ten and six meters, we'll begin to hear more and more propagation beacons. **Keith Hib-**

(Continued on page 14) Wanderings

(Continued from page 13) *Wanderings*

bert WB2VUO is trustee for the Byron/Bergen Amateur Microwave System Club Station **NQ2RP** in Bergen, NY. He's asked us to listen for his club's 10 meter milliwattting beacon running 125 mW at 28.287 MHz. Their beacon motto? "Our night light runs more power than our rig"!!! **Vic, AB6SO**
☺☺☺

(Continued from page 11) *Ponderings*

Single Operator Category with 6 and 2 meter entries. Be sure to submit your entries to these contests no matter how many or few QSO's you have. All you need to enter the QRP Portable Class is an FM handie-talkie. Quite often no one thinks to enter this class so you could win by default just by submitting your entry form.

During the weekend of January 10/11, Northern California stations were worked in Albuquerque, NM on both 6 and 2 meters. The 6 meter SSB contacts may have been sporadic-E propagation while the 2 meter CW signals had the hollow sounds often associated with auroral bounce propagation. When 10 meter paths are short, say 200-400 miles, check 6 meters for sporadic-E. All classes of licensees, except Novices, can participate in the 6 and 2 meter activities.

Several PAARA members were overheard working DX during the 10 Meter Contest in December. Conditions were exhilarating, especially on the first day of the contest. It sounded like one big DX pileup from 28.3 to 28.6 MHz with many stations 40-60 dB over S9. Many of the operators were Tech Pluses. Nearly half of all US hams have never operated during a sunspot cycle peak. Now is the perfect time to upgrade to a higher class license. One week of effort can get you from Tech to Tech Plus. Good times are coming, gang!

The October 25/26 PAARA New Ham Class was a total success with all students now licensed. **Jon Zweig** canceled out of the class as he passed his exam even before the class started. He was licensed as Tech Plus **KF6OBP** but has subsequently upgraded to General Class and new callsign **KF6OLA**. His ten year old son has now been bitten by the ham bug. **Dennis Freeman** is now Tech Plus **KF6OHO** and **Shinji Sato** is Tech **KF6OHP**. Shinji held a JA Base (Novice) license before and will no doubt upgrade soon. Later, **John Stearns** lucked out with his callsign suffix when he became Tech **KF6OTX** to match PAARA's club callsign **W6OTX**. **Robin McClish** finally fit an exam into her busy schedule to become Tech Plus **KF6PBA** and immediately began studying for General Class.

Welcome these new hams to the air if you work them and volunteer to help them over any stumbling blocks. Thanks go out to **Bill Rausch AA6PA**, Head Instructor, and to **Ron Carmichael KQ6RS**, **Dan Curry WB6STW** and **Vic Black AB6SO** who assisted Bill. Congratulations to all!

PAARA Secretary and Webmaster **Andreas Junge KF6NEB** has just returned from a holiday trip to Germany where he operated with an assigned reciprocal license as

DC/KF6NEB. When he got home he found requests for over 20 QSL's as a result of his callsign which was considered an exotic Fine Business DX callsign in Europe. Andreas upgraded from Tech to Tech Plus after working Japan on 15 meters as a third party operator for the PAARA Sixtieth Anniversary Special Event Station **W6OTX**.

Welcome **Bob Polhamus KF6OZU** who heard the Special Event Station on his SWL receiver, drove up to investigate and then tested for his new license. Says Bob, "I don't know why I didn't do this sooner".

PAARA's Winter Party was held Thursday, January 15 at the Country Harvest Buffet in Santa Clara. Since this was more affordable than previous parties, the attendance was up from recent years. It was announced that the club received the Central Coast Radio Council Plaque for the highest score in the inter-club Field Day competition. New officers for 1998 were installed and Dave Bailey publicly thanked last year's slate of officers for a fine job done.

Vice President **Dave Bailey WS6W** presented the coveted 60-60 Award to four PAARA members who contacted at least 60 stations simplex during the latter half of 1997 in celebration of the club's sixtieth anniversary. They are **Dan Curry WB6STW**, **Steve Stuntz K6FS**, **Kit Kohlmoos W6ISO** and **Vic Black AB6SO**. Dan did his work from his FB mobile setup. Steve opted to do it all on 20 meters QRP SSB. Kit's QSO's were done from home and Vic did his in one weekend on VHF/UHF portable.

Long time PAARA member **Barry Lar Rieu WA6UIM** has just published a novel based on his U.S. Gov't service in Guatemala. He's now working on another novel. Barry entertained the Winter Party with his description of historical events that preceded the writing of the murder mystery which starts on the San Francisco Peninsula and ends up in the South American country of Belize. When **Andy Korsack VE3FZK** asked him if he worked for a top secret government intelligence gathering agency, Barry would only give a James Bond smile. Barry described working on the air during his travels, most recently with a Wilderness Radio NorCal 40A 40 meter QRP rig. He has traveled to 53 countries in his work (only 47 more to go for DXCC, Barry!).

Dave Bailey WS6W is PAARA's new Vice President and Program Chairman. He's doing a great job of scheduling speakers and programs for the monthly club meetings. If you know of a good potential speaker, let Dave know. We'll all benefit from it.

Ninety one year old **Art Bolton NM6K** said he's getting tired of changing the clock twice a year to accommodate daylight saving time so he's spearheading an effort to eliminate it. Art thinks it costs business millions of dollars per year to change printed schedules, etc. Art, who has been a licensed ham for 76 years, said he's willing to spend as much time as needed to eliminate daylight saving time.

☺☺☺

Vic AB6SO

(Continued from page 12) Program Notes

Members of ARES do not have to be members of ARRL. "The only qualification is a desire to, perform public service, and agreement to be available for duty as needed. ARES volunteers are not paid for their services, and are self-insured against personal injury or loss/damage of equipment. While typical ARES-aided events include parades air shows, walkathons bikeathons and the? like, members of this Service also may be called to back up communication in emergencies on land or water, to assist shelter managers of Red Cross and other caregivers, and help public agencies in directing traffic and gathering damage-assessment data. Anne emphasized that experience in ARES, along lines recommended and formalized by ARRL through published training aids, is excellent preparation for hams interested in going a step further by joining the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) - defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, an element of US government) as "an organization of radio amateurs who volunteer to provide radio communication for state and local government in times of emergency". This service was inaugurated in 1952, "primarily to serve in civil defense emergencies and warning actions, to supplement state and local agencies." Under present legislation, FEMA provides guidance, technical assistance and funding, as required, for establishing RACES organizations at state and local levels. FEMA has been assigned the task of administering RACES, due to its (FEMA's) mission to oversee preparedness for, and aid in recovery from, natural disasters on a nationwide basis. RACES is not an established institution, in the governmental sense, but is intended to be flexible, adapting to civil needs as called upon by responsible public agencies

(While the two volunteer groups would at first glance seem to be competing, Anne noted, the fact is that RACES in most instances is staffed by ARES members, as an extension of their commitment to volunteer service.)

Due to the structure of FEMA, each RACES group is administered directly by an arm of local government, e.g. local, county or state Office of Emergency Services (OES). In turn, the role of local governments is to establish a cadre of trained RACES members prepared to provide supplement emergency communications within their local jurisdictions.

The FCC's relation to RACES: responsible for the creation of RACES and its operations, although direct administration is

(Continued on page 17) Program Notes

Bring a Show & Tell
to the next
PAARA meeting

PAARA-Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association-P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA. • Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off. • Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAgaphs. • Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

SEQUOIA YACHT CLUB AMATEUR RADIO CLASS

A one-day FCC Amateur License Class conducted in November was a success, not only for the yacht club, but for all the members who received their new licenses that week. 21 people were in the class. Fifteen now have their Tech licenses and 1 has a General class license. The class was taught by PAARA member **Al Montoya, WB6IMX**. Due to the interest in the class by the sailing/boating community, another class is planned for April. Though the class is primarily aimed at the boating community, it will be open to all.

This is a self-study course followed by a two-day weekend class with FCC testing on Sunday. The class is targeted for the "NO CODE" Technician class license with provisions made for upgrading to higher license classes. Facilities are not a problem. We are using Sequoia Yacht Club in Redwood City which has room for over 150 people with kitchen facilities. Additional help in instructors and class preparation is always appreciated.

This two-day amateur radio class with FCC License testing is planned for April 18 & 19th. Fee: \$45.00 (includes materials and lunch). Family or couple discounts available. Add \$6.00 per person for VEC/FCC testing & license fee.

Contact: Sequoia Yacht Club; POB 5548; Redwood City, CA 94063-0548. or for more information contact

Al Montoya, WB6IMX, at (650) 365-3004

Internet: al.montoya@uncled.com.



PAARA WEB SITE

check it out

<http://www.qsl.net/paara/index.html/>

webmaster: **Andreas Junge KF6NEB**



Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO February 6th

gab & gobble

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant
1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park



PAARA MONDAY NIGHT NET

8:30 PM 145.230-600 MHz repeater

PL tone off

Latest news between monthly issues of PAARAgaph

TREASURER'S REPORT

DOUG SCHLIEBUS, K1DIT (ex-w6EDL) Treasurer

December 1997

Income.....	\$168	YTD.....	\$12,579
Expenses.....	\$ 59	YTD.....	\$ 7,552
Net Return....	\$109	YTD.....	\$ 5,027



Activity:

13 Members have paid 1998 dues (+44 @ Mtg & PO Box)
All current bills are paid.
Will publish 1997 Statement (by month) in February or March PAARAgaphs.
Expect to have all data entered into Quicken next month, with a complete Income/expense report available.
Am running about 2-3 weeks behind depositing dues into bank and updating roster.

Balance as of 1/08/98

Checking	\$ 6,948
Savings	\$22,003
Total	\$28,952

Doug K1DIT, Treas. 1/14/98

1998 PAARA DUES are DUE

\$12 for full membership
\$6 each for additional family member (no news letter)

payable to: PAARA, Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026

or to:

Treas. Doug K1DIT

(be sure to include names and calls)



PAARA PRIDE wear your PAARA Badge

to

meetings, picnics, field days, winter parties, ham fests,
flea markets, Pacificons...

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members.
(short personal ads remain free for members in good standing).

All ad rates listed are per issue only.

1. Not for profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size).
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association.

The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association. All fees are for "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads.

Handi-Ham

Camp in California Announced

The next session of HANDI-HAM Radio Workshop (Camp) will be held at Camp Joan Mier, Malibu, from February 24 to March 1, 1998.

This camp will provide ham radio instruction at all levels for persons with severe physical (not learning) disabilities and/or sensory impairments.

The camp in 1998 will be **FREE** for California residents who are going for a first ticket or upgrade. All normal care, food, lodging, and Amateur Radio instruction for the session will be provided **AT NO COST** to the campers.

If you or anyone you know is interested, contact Jane Rova, Secretary, Courage HANDI-HAM System, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422; (612) 520-0512;

e-mail handiham@mtn.org.

—Brad Wyatt, K6WR,

Director, Pacific Division, ARRL

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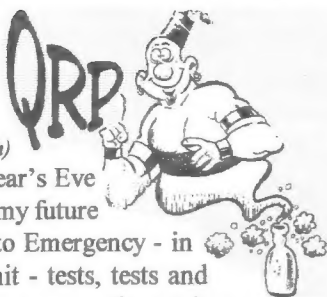
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SAM SAYS

CQ QRP de KF6ML

(continued from last month)



Something happened New Year's Eve that will make a big change in my future life-style - an ambulance ride to Emergency - in the hospital Intensive Care Unit - tests, tests and more tests. I'm stabilized now, recuperating at home, but will be carefully monitored for at least 3 months. The Great Physician has been good to me, although my trip to PAARA meeting in February is still a question mark.

Therefore, this #6 installment will terminate my QRP writings.

Thanks for allowing me to visit your ham shacks for the last ½ year via PAARAgaphs and I do enjoy the infrequent attendance to your meetings, which I definitely plan to continue, conditions permitting.

Ham radio, namely QRP, will definitely be a tremendous therapy for me in my limited activities. I can't think of any other hobby of mine that has not only given me personal pleasure, but even more importantly, permitted me to meet many, many fine hams throughout the world via the air waves. I am still planning to get my Extra Class license and get more into CW (even mobile CW) although my favorite mode remains HF-SSB. Also, I will still continue to build projects and hope to keep you posted. If any of you are on E-mail, my address is (kf6ml@juno.com), and I would love to hear from you. I'm a lousy letter writer/answerer but manage to answer my E-mail, due to ease of operations.

As for QRP, my current project is NorCal's 2222 design contest (using only 2N2222 family transistors). My attempt is a 40m CW milliwatt xcvr and will probably package it into an ALTOIDS tin. Also on the back burner is my 40m CW/SSB VFO xcvr (5W CW, 10w pep SSB) for Dayton 1998, for which I have previously registered and still have hopes of attending.

Thanks again for my intrusions and 72's,

Sam Imai, KF6ML

(ed. note: we will miss Sam's monthly QRP article. We still need a monthly item to keep QRP interest up in PAARAgaphs. Service helps the club.)

(Continued from page 15) Program Notes

the job of FEMA, through state, county and local Offices of Emergency Services (OES). FCC Rules & Regulations, Part 97, subpart F, describes RACES operations in detail.

RACES role is now written into the disaster preparedness plan of every community, country wide, starting at the state level. Its mission - the bottom line - is to supply backup communication for government agencies during a disaster. Participating hams are mobilized in response to orders from their local agencies (for example: police, fire or public works departments); they are formally activated by some arm of the government. They are covered by disaster worker's insurance; in California it is the equivalent of workers' compensation for

on-job personal injury. This plan is now being adopted by other states, and may eventually be a feature of nationwide amateur radio volunteer emergency backup services. To be eligible for disaster workers' insurance, RACES hams sign up with their local disaster responding agencies as registered, legally recognized disaster service workers. Having done so, registered hams are required to participate in periodic network training activities, and are urged to take additional disaster relief training offered by their local agencies. This might take the form of cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), damage assessment techniques, familiarization with local disaster sensitive areas and structures (bridges, highway intersections, flood plains, etc.), and specific procedures used by local agencies in responding to emergencies.

Anne concluded by soliciting membership in either or both organizations, and offered disaster service worker registration forms to those interested audience members.

NOTE: reports of PAARA programs are based on tape recordings of speakers' remarks, made during presentation. While not studio quality, copies can be made available, on a very limited basis, to PAARA members.

FURTHER NOTE: many of our speakers use "overhead" projection transparencies, as in the case of our January presenter. We have long needed appropriate equipment to accommodate such presentations. PAARA's board of directors, at its January meeting, voted treasury funds to purchase a suitable unit ASAP. We won't be caught short again! ☺☺☺

Call for Applications for 1998 Scholarships

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington D. C., plans to administer sixty-six (66) scholarships for the academic year 1998-99 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds nine of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-seven are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their WWW pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1998, from

FAR Scholarships
6903 Rhode Island Ave.
College Park MD 20740

—Brad Wyatt, K6WR,

